

(12) United States Patent

Hergott et al.

(10) Patent No.:

US 6,676,502 B2

(45) Date of Patent:

Jan. 13, 2004

(54)	METHOD AND MEANS FOR STUFFING
	NATURAL CASINGS WITH SAUSAGE
	EMULSION

(75) Inventors: Steven P. Hergott, West Des Moines, IA (US); David S. Hamblin, Norwalk, IA (US); Michael J. Hardy, West Des Moines, IA (US)

(73) Assignee: Townsend Engineering Company, Des Moines, IA (US)

Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this (*) Notice: patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: 10/160,931

(22) Filed: May 31, 2002

Prior Publication Data US 2003/0224713 A1 Dec. 4, 2003

(51) Int. Cl.⁷ A22C 11/00

(58) Field of Search 452/30, 31, 32, 452/33, 39, 45

(56) References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

997,547 A		4/1911	Grunskey
2,568,491 A	٠	9/1951	Edwards 425/133.1
3,404,430 A	*	10/1968	Kielsmeien et al 452/35
3,805,329 A		4/1974	Kollross
3,826,852 A	٠	7/1974	Levaco et al 426/132

3,952,370 A		4/1976	Greider	
4,112,546 A		9/1978	Muller	
4,202,075 A		5/1980	Michel et al.	
RE30,390 E	*	9/1980	Kupcikevicius et al	452/31
4,525,895 A	٠	7/1985	Raudys	452/39
4,649,602 A	٠	3/1987	Kupcikevicius	452/38
4,683,617 A		8/1987	Raudys	
4,768,261 A	٠	9/1988	Nakamura	452/33
6,066,036 A	٠	5/2000	Carollo	452/35
6,139,416 A		10/2000	Toepfer	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DE	1136604	9/1962
DE	4232759	3/1994
R	2780246	12/1999

* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner-Thomas Price

ABSTRACT

A method and structure of stuffing natural casings with sausage material involves taking a plurality of natural casings of different lengths and diameters; pre-loading each of the casings on elongated hollow open ended sleeves shorter than the casings and having a diameter less than the casings by telescoping the casings on the outer surfaces of the sleeves, slidably mounting the sleeves on the open end of a meat stuffing tube of a sausage encasing machine; extruding meat emulsion through the stuffing tube into the casing mounted on the sleeve until the sleeve is slidably removed from the tube, removing the sleeve from the stuffing tube, repeating the use of the sleeve by preloading the sleeve with another natural casing.

8 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets

